

Developmental Disabilities Council Reading Cover Page

Date: March 17, 2005

**Issue: Reading 04-P1
Legislative Issues Update**

Included in this Reading:
Council's 2005 Public Policy/Legislative Issues
Update as of 2/25/05

Background/Summary:
Additional up-to-date information will be brought to
the committee meeting.

Action:
Discussion

If there are any questions, please contact Donna Patrick at 1-800-634-4473 or donnap@cted.wa.gov

Washington State
Developmental Disabilities Council
2005 Public Policy / Legislative Issues

2/25/05 Update for Public Policy Committee mailing



Community Services Trust Account - Establish a trust account for proceeds from the sale, lease or other transaction of excess institutional land, timber, or other natural resources. Dedicate proceeds to DD community services for the unserved.

2/25/05 Status: House Bill 1791 in Appropriations Committee, Senate Bill 5702 in Ways & Means Committee



RHC Consolidation – Continue the process of consolidating the RHCs and redirect the resources to community supports and services that enable people with developmental disabilities to live and work in their communities. ***Status: Budget item***



DD Waivers – Increase waiver slots to serve new people. ***Status: Budget item***



Family Support – Fund in-home supports for the 8,000 families on the waiting list for family support services. Develop crisis respite options for children in the community. ***Status: Budget item***



Employment Supports, Prioritizing Special Education Students Exiting High School- Fund long-term employment supports for students and adults needing employment. *Status: Budget item*



Community Residential Placements – Fund residential supports and respite for adults with developmental disabilities. *Status: Budget item*



Voluntary Placement Program – Fund new placements for children in the DD Voluntary Placement Program. *Status: Budget item*



Birth to Three / Schools – Require that all school districts participate in early intervention services, in partnership with local birth to three services lead agencies and providers.

2/25/05 Status: HB 1107 in Appropriations Committee, SB 5141 in Ways & Means Committee



DD Housing Trust Fund – Fund community housing through the DD set-aside in the Housing Trust Fund.

Status: Budget item



Provider Workforce –Ensure a stable provider workforce. *Status: Budget item*



Caseload Forecast – Forecast DD community services. *2/25/05 Status: HB 1416 in Appropriations Committee*



Health Care Access – Move toward health care

access for all and increase access of Medicaid clients to health care providers.

2/25/05 Status: HB 1441 to provide health insurance to all Washington children by the year 2010 in Health Care Committee, SB 5673 and companion HB 1702 to expand access to health insurance by imposing a fee on large employers who do not offer health benefits are in Health Care and Health and Long Term Care Committees. SB 5771 to provide insurance coverage for neurodevelopmental therapies past the age of 6 is in the Senate Health & Long Term Care Committee. SB 5311 to establish a task force on autism is in Senate Health & Long Term Care.



Mental Health Parity – Phase in parity for insurance policies to provide mental health coverage at the same level as health care coverage. ***2/25/05 Update: SB 5450 & Substitute HB 1154 are in the Senate Health & Long Term Care Committee (House Bill has passed the House)***



Voting Rights – Change guardianship law to assume that people keep their right to vote unless a guardianship specifically takes away that right. ***2/25/05 Update: HB 1876 in House State Government Operations & Accountability Committee***



Hearsay –Expand circumstances under which information provided by a dependent person with a developmental disability is admissible as evidence in court.